

Tropical Storm Elvis (23W)

TS Elvis (23W) was one of 10 tropical cyclones to form in the South China Sea during 1998, roughly twice the number expected (based on JTWC 15 year statistics). A straight-running cyclone, TS Elvis (23W), made landfall in Vietnam causing 49 deaths and flooding damage.

A TCFA was initially issued at 232300Z November for a poorly defined tropical cyclone with the strongest winds on the periphery. The first warning was issued at 240300Z November as ship reports and intensity estimates from satellite data indicated a 25 kt tropical cyclone. The cyclone began tracking west-northwest at 8 kt and reached tropical storm intensity at 241200Z November.

The system continued to move west-northwestward and attained a maximum intensity of 45 kt at 250000Z November. Moderate vertical wind shear prevented further intensification of TS Elvis (23W), which remained at 45 kt until making landfall at 252300Z November. The cyclone moved onshore north of Quy Nhon, Vietnam and dissipated after 12 hours. The final JTWC warning was issued at 260900Z November.

According to reports compiled by the Dartmouth Flood Observatory, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, approximately 49 fatalities and 30 million U. S. dollars worth of damage in the Binh Dinh and Quang Ngai provinces of Vietnam resulted from the passage of TS Elvis (23W) and its associated rainfall and flooding.

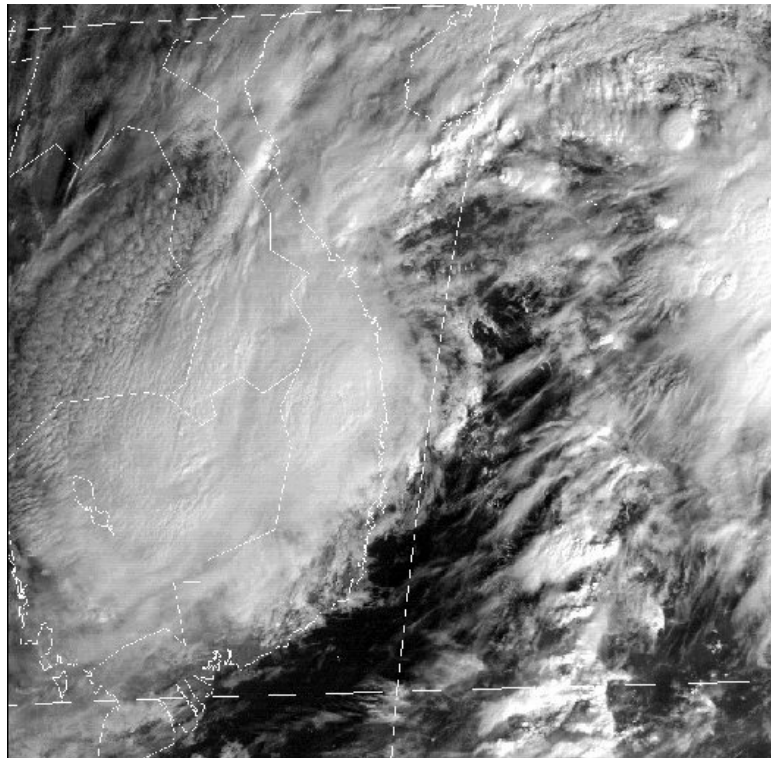


Figure 3-23-1. Visible satellite imagery of TS Elvis just after passing over the Vietnam coast.

